

Application No. 10/650,058  
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to clarify that the stabilizing member is shaped as a solid cylinder, as shown in Fig. 8 (element 32), and as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 16, line 13 to page 17, line 2.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 5,726,699 ("Itami et al") and USP 6,424,447 ("Kaneko et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 1 and 3 as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 3, the stabilizing member provided in a vicinity of an outer circumference of the polygon mirror is shaped as a solid cylinder, which has a height greater than a height of a lower surface of the rotary polygon mirror, and which

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is provided in an area on a side of the polygon mirror between the polygon mirror and a side wall of a main body of the optical scanning apparatus.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that mirror keeper 31 of Itami et al corresponds to the stabilizing member of the claimed present invention. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the mirror keeper 31 of Itami et al (to the extent that it is cylindrical at all) is both hollow and open-ended, so as to be mountable on top of the shaft 27 and to extend down the shaft 27 to secure polygon mirror 30, as shown in Fig. 1A of Itami et al.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that cylindrical partition 51 of Kaneko et al is clearly hollow, so as to be able to surround polygon mirror 17, as shown for example in Fig. 1 of Kaneko et al.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that neither Itami et al nor Kaneko et al discloses, teaches or suggests a stabilizing member which is shaped as a solid cylinder, which has a height greater than a height of a lower surface of the rotary polygon mirror, and which is provided in an area on a side of the polygon mirror between the polygon mirror and a side wall of a main body of the optical scanning apparatus, in the manner of the claimed present invention.

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It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that even if Itami et al and Kaneko et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 3 would still not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 3 patentably distinguish over Itami et al and Kaneko et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 103.

\* \* \* \* \*

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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